

State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

Date: January 31, 2014
To: The Commission
(Agenda Distribution List)
From: Amy C. Baker
Advisor to Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval
Subject: Discussion and Action on Proposed Appointments to the Low-Income Oversight Board

Public Utilities Code § 382.1 establishes a Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) to advise the Commission on low-income electric, gas, and water customer issues. The LIOB serves as a liaison between the Commission and the low-income ratepayers and representatives. The LIOB is comprised of eleven members. On January 12, 2014, the terms for three of the public positions on the LIOB ended. Two positions that became vacant are held by members selected by the Commission who have expertise in the low-income community and are not affiliated with any state agency or utility. One position that became vacant is held by a representative of private weatherization contractors. The positions are for two-year terms from the date of appointment by the Commission.

Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval issued an Assigned Commissioner's Ruling on December 16, 2013 seeking applications for the available positions. Following a review of the applications, **Commissioner Sandoval recommends that, during the February 5, 2014 business meeting, the Commission approve the appointments of Ortensia Lopez, Larry Gross, and Patricia Watts (Private Weatherization Contractor Representative) to the LIOB.**

Ms. Lopez is a founding member of the LIOB and has served four terms. She is a recognized leader on a number of issues facing low-income communities and has provided valuable contributions to LIOB. She has been the Executive Director of El Concilio of San Mateo County for over 16 years. The organization has provided energy education and weatherization for over 20,000 households. Prior to that, Ms. Lopez was the President and Co-founder of the Bay Area Latino Non-Profit Association. Ms. Lopez has extensive volunteer experience and has won numerous awards for her community contributions and leadership.

Mr. Gross was appointed to the LIOB on January 12, 2012. He has been the Executive Director of the Los Angeles-based Coalition for Economic Survival (CES) for over 40 years. CES is a tenants' rights organization serving low and moderate income renters throughout the greater Los Angeles area and its mission is to preserve affordable housing. Mr. Gross was appointed by the Mayor and Chairperson of the L.A. City Council Housing and Community Development Committee to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Study of the Economic Impact of Major Rehabilitation Evictions on low income households. He was also a member of L.A. City Councilmember Eric Garcetti's Slum Housing Task Force. He was a City Council appointee to the seven-member Tenant-Landlord Oversight Committee of the Economic Study of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Los Angeles Housing Market. He is currently Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's appointed delegate to the California Democratic Convention.

Ms. Watts has served as the Private Weatherization Contractor representative on the LIOB for the past two years and served as the board's Vice-Chair. Ms. Watts has been the President and CEO of FCI Management Consultants in Long Beach for over 14 years. Prior to that, she was the president and owner of a management consultant agency specializing in public affairs, community relations and marketing for over 10 years and served in several different roles at Southern California Edison. Ms. Watts is an active community member, serving on several boards and providing outstanding leadership.

Ms. Lopez, Mr. Gross, and Ms. Watts are highly qualified for the appointments and will be valuable additions to the LIOB.